

CHAPTER 5 SECTION 4.2

FETAL FIBRONECTIN ENZYME IMMUNOASSAY

Issue Date: November 4, 1996

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(e\)\(16\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE

82731

II. DESCRIPTION

Fetal fibronectin (fFN) is a protein found in the extracellular matrix of the amniotic membranes. Fetal fibronectin (fFN) is normally found in vaginal secretions until the 20th week of gestation. Detection of fFN in vaginal secretions between the 24th and 34th week of pregnancy is abnormal and marks the patient at increased risk for preterm delivery. The Fetal Fibronectin (fFN) Enzyme Immunoassay detects the presence of fFN in vaginal secretions and is used as an aid in the assessment of women at increased risk for preterm delivery within 7 to 14 days from the time of the specimen collection.

III. POLICY

A. Cost-sharing may be approved for the Fetal Fibronectin Enzyme Immunoassay performed on pregnant women with signs and symptoms of early preterm labor, intact amniotic membranes and minimal cervical dilation (< 3 centimeters), sampled between 24 weeks, 0 days and 34 weeks, 6 days gestation.

B. Preterm labor symptoms include:

1. Uterine contractions, with or without pain.
2. Intermittent abdominal pain, dull backache.
3. Pelvic pressure.
4. Vaginal bleeding in second or third trimester.
5. Menstrual-like cramping, with or without diarrhea.
6. Change in vaginal discharge.
7. Vague feeling of discomfort or that something is wrong.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE **September 21, 1995.**

- END -